

XXXV.—1891.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CEYLON.

ANURÁDHAPURA.

THIRD PROGRESS REPORT, OCTOBER TO DECEMBER, 1890.

BY H. C. P. BELL, Esq., C.C.S.

Archæological Commissioner.

Ordered by His Excellency the Governor to be Printed.



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1903.

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Washington, D. C.

1881-1882

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

COMMISSIONER

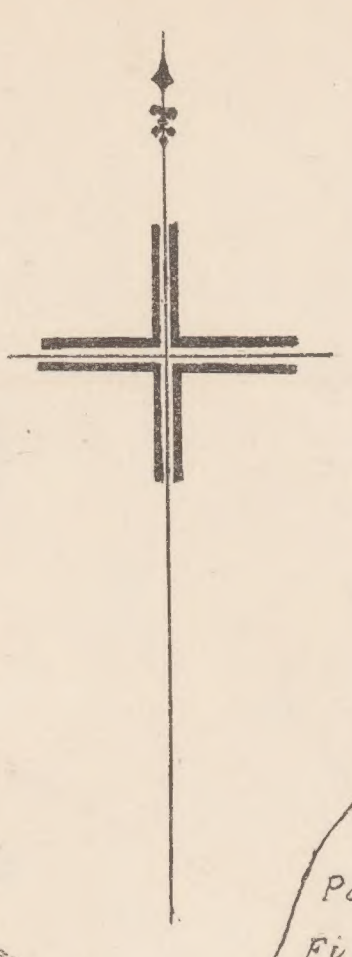
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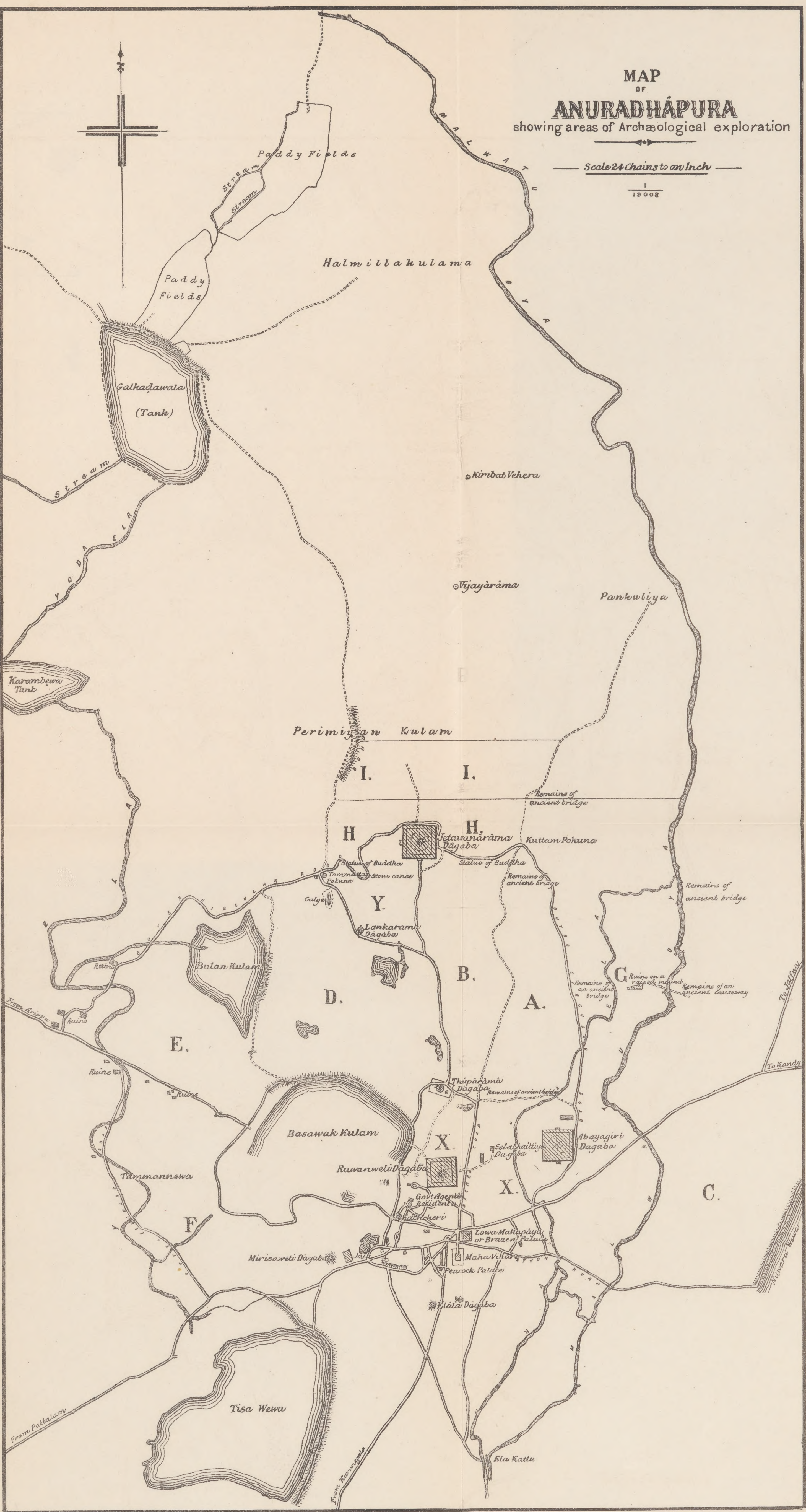
1881-1882

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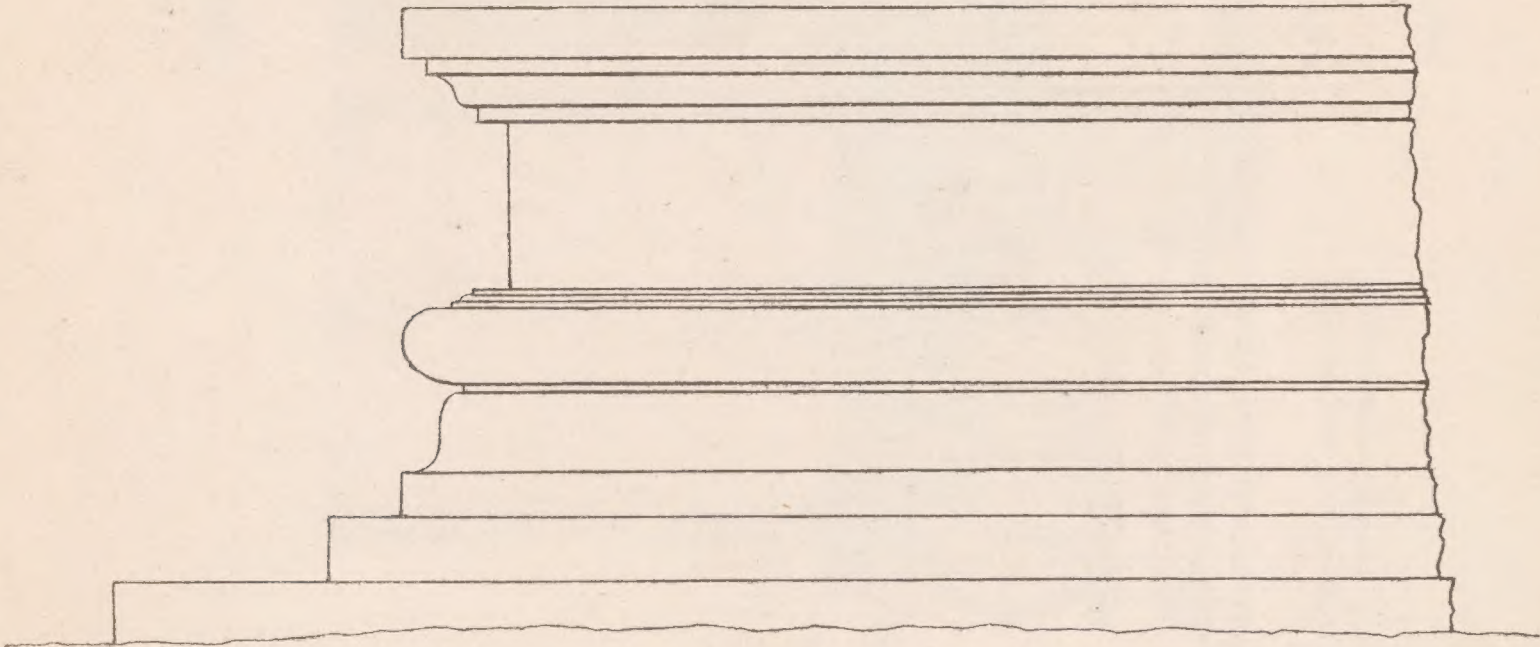
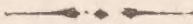


MAP
OF
ANURADHAPURA
showing areas of Archæological exploration

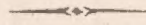
Scale 24 Chains to an Inch
1
12 008



BUILDING 'H'
IN MONASTERY 'A'



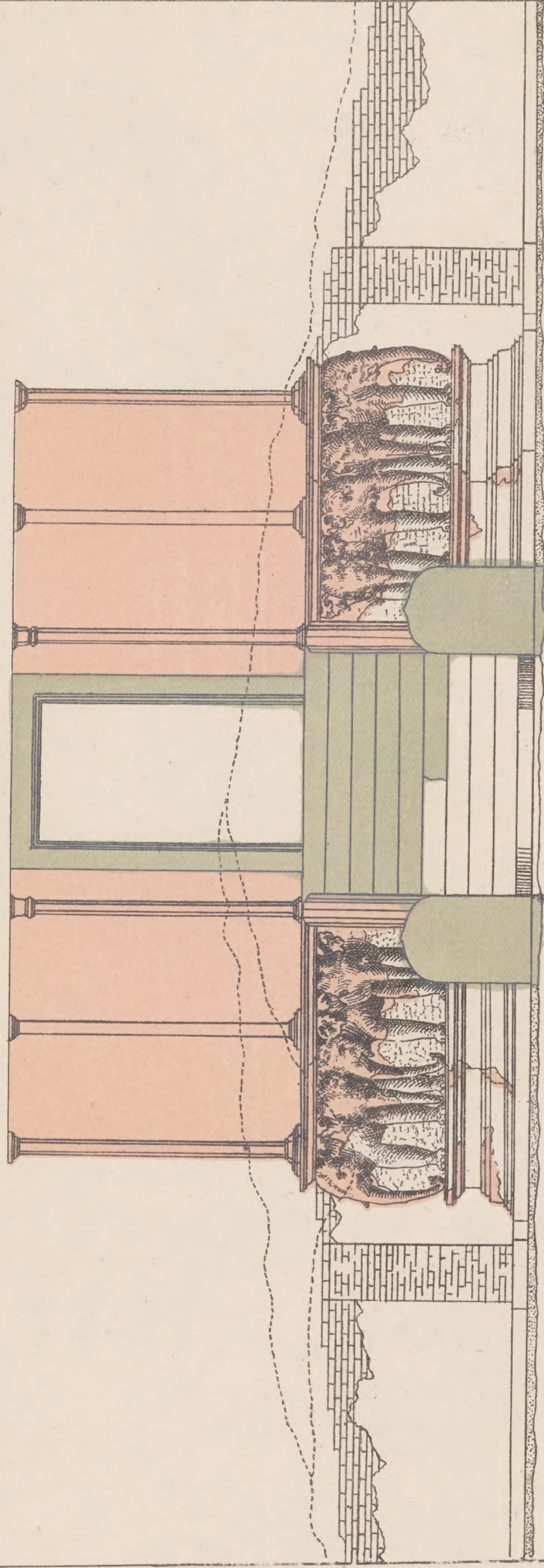
BASEMENT ELEVATION



Scale, 1 Foot to an Inch

$\frac{1}{12}$

PORCH
LEADING TO
GALGE PREMISES



Dotted line shows surface of mound before excavation

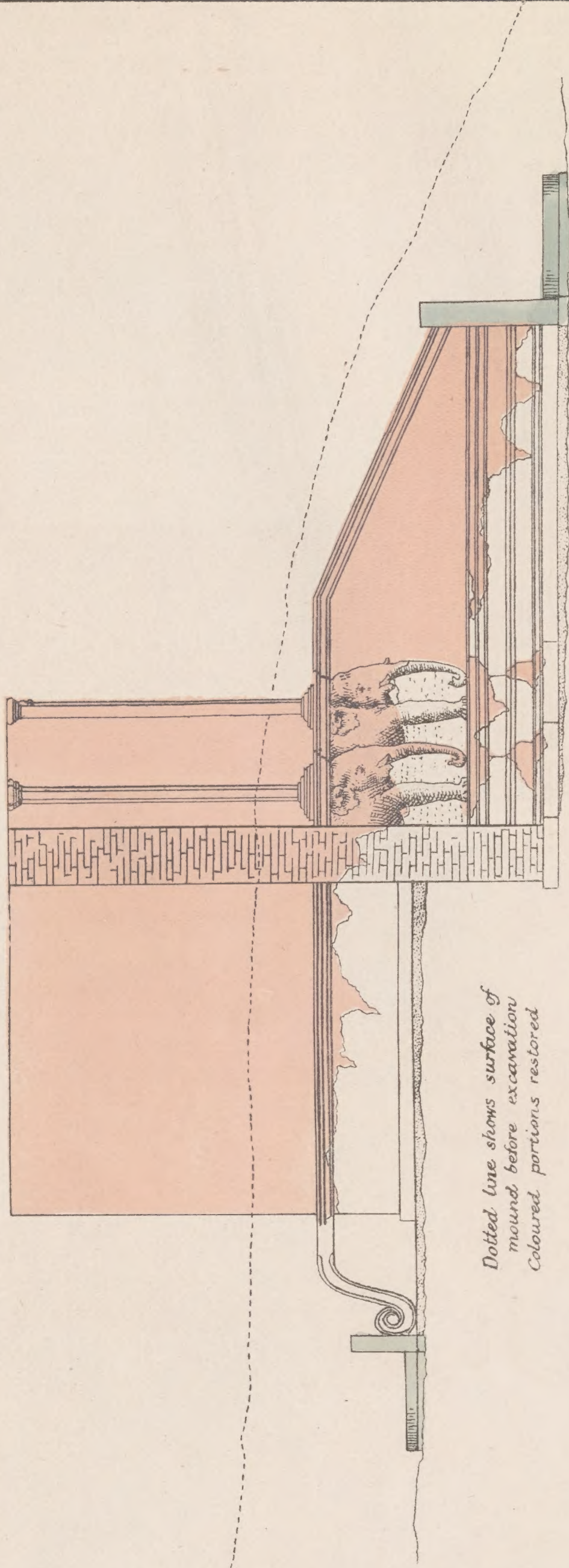
FRONT ELEVATION
(RESTORED)

Coloured portions restored

Scale, 4 Feet to an Inch

$\frac{1}{48}$

PORCH
LEADING TO
"GALGE" PREMISES

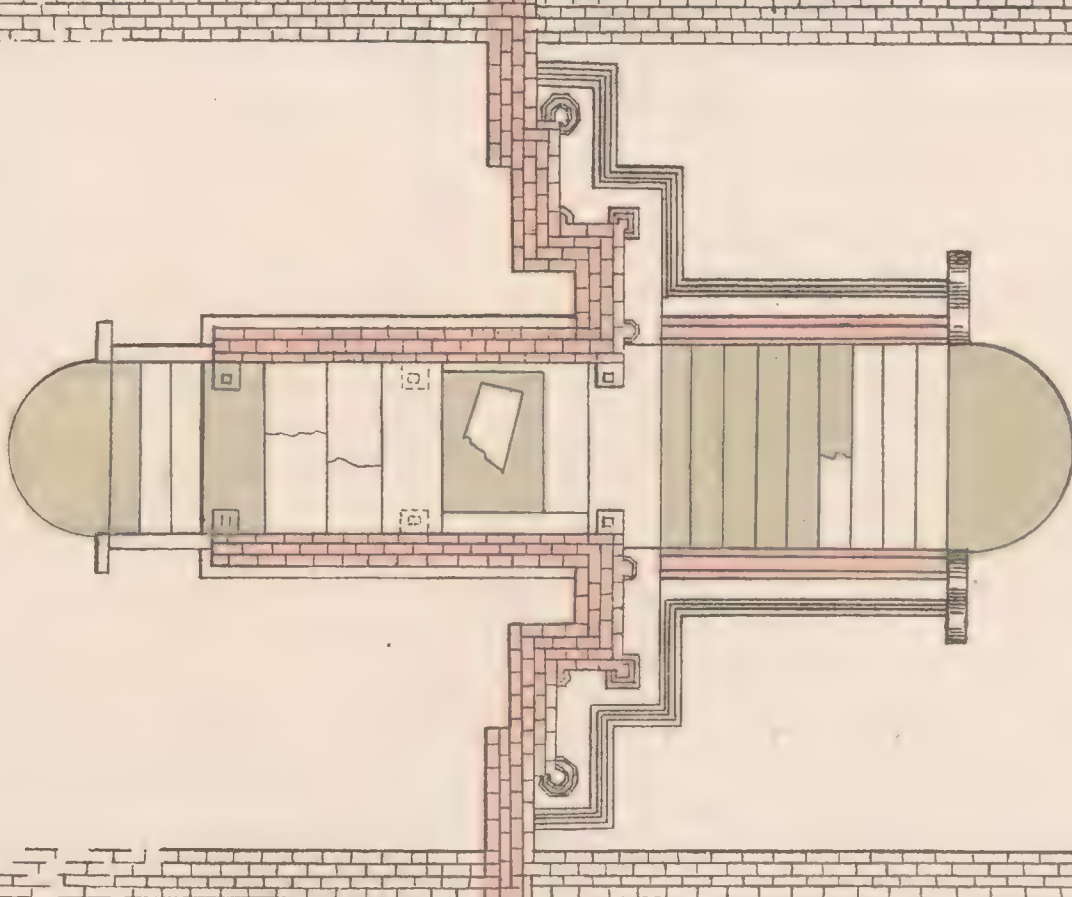


*Dotted line shows surface of
mound before excavation
Coloured portions restored*

SIDE ELEVATION
(RESTORED)

Scale 4 Feet to an Inch

PORCH
LEADING TO
"GALGE" PREMISES.

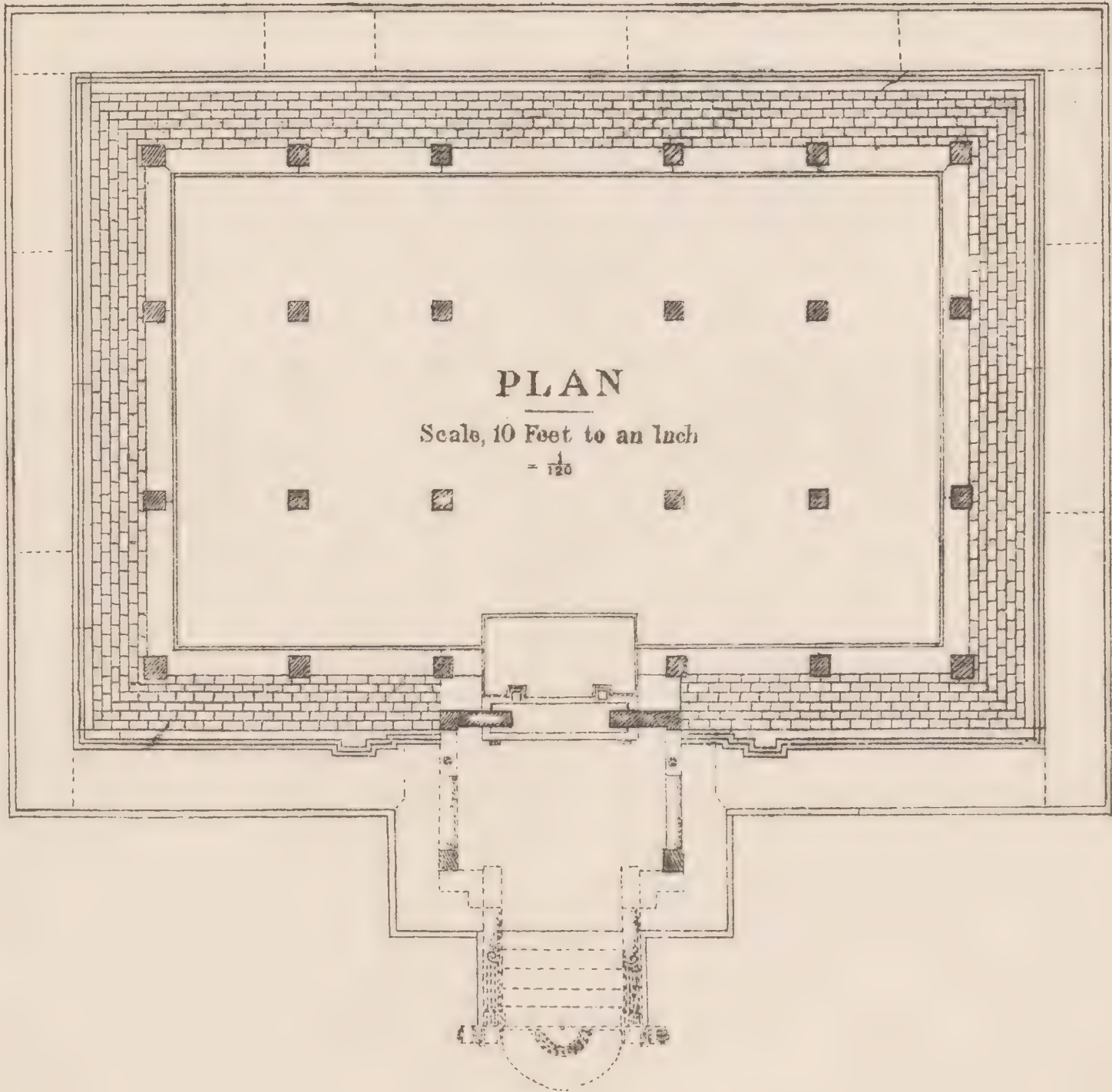


PLAN

Scale, 8 Feet to an Inch

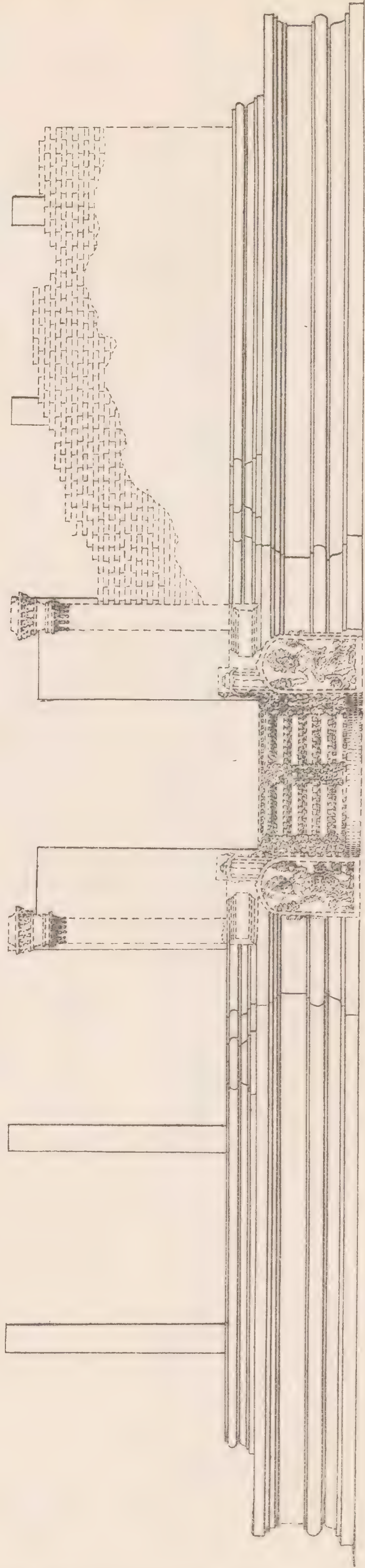
Coloured portions restored

VIHARE²
IN MONASTERY 'B'
near
LANKARAMA DAGABA
—♦—



— Dotted-line work represents missing portions. —

VIHARE
IN MONASTERY 'B'
near
LANKARAMA DAGABA

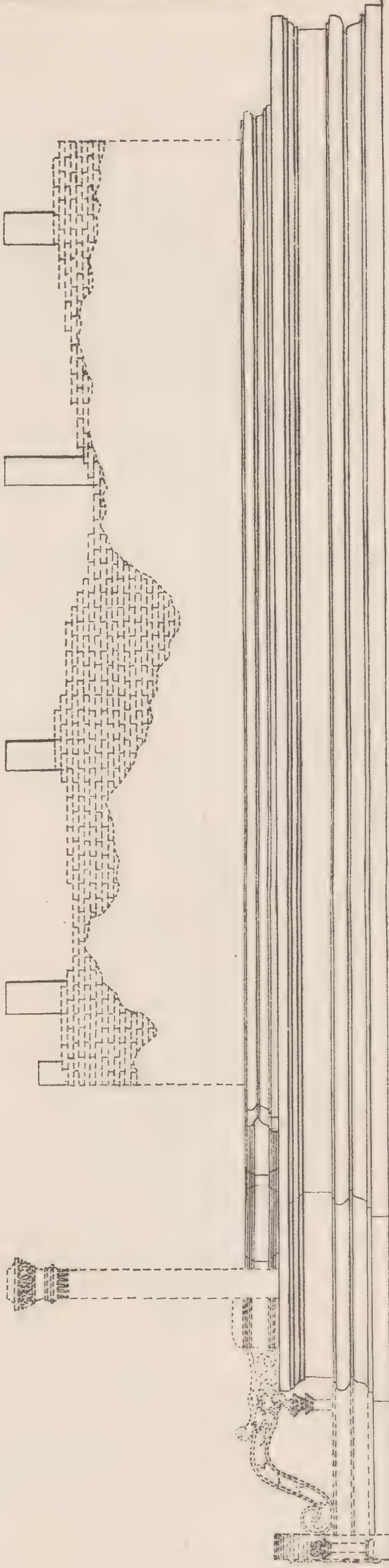


FRONT ELEVATION
(RESTORED)

Scale, 5 Feet to an Inch.
= $\frac{1}{60}$.

—— Dotted-line work represents missing portions ——

VIHARE
IN MONASTERY 'B'
near
LANKARĀMA DĀCABA



SIDE ELEVATION
(RESTORED)

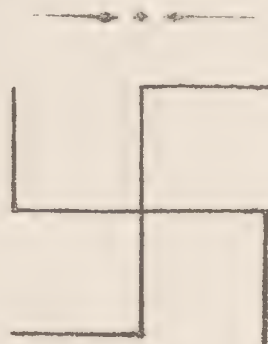
Scale. 5 Feet to an Inch.
 $\frac{1}{60}$

—— Dotted-line work represents missing portions. ——

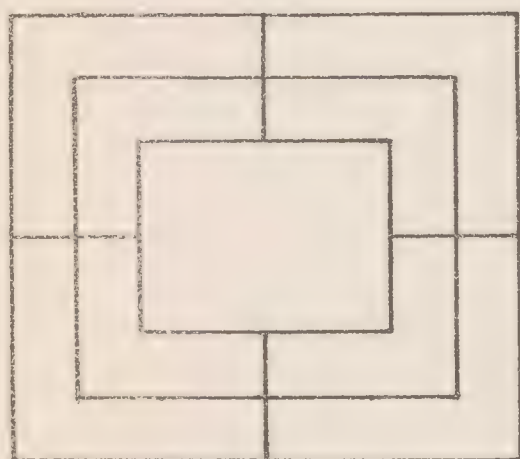
OUTLINE FIGURES

ETC.

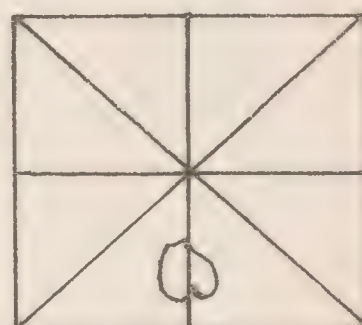
CARVED ON ROCK, S. W. OF MONASTERY 'B'
NEAR "LANKARÁMA"



1.



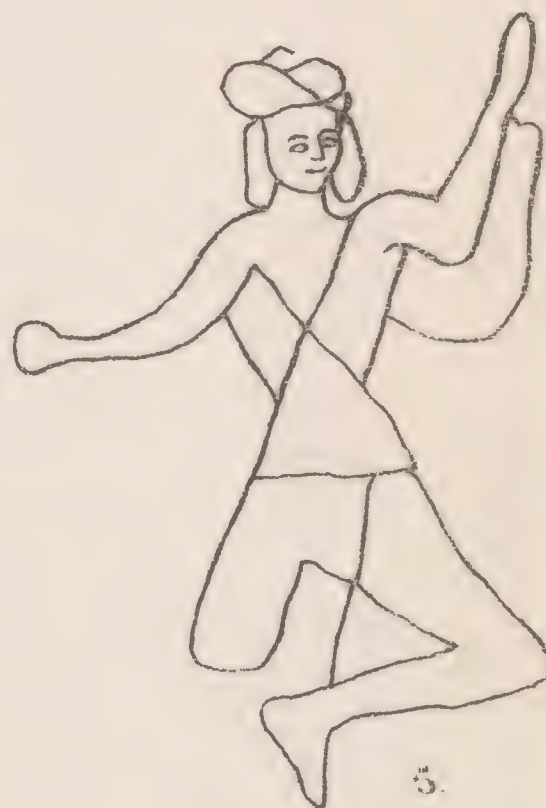
2.



3.



4.



5.

Scale, $\frac{1}{4}$ th Actual size.



ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CEYLON.

ANURÁDHAPURA.

THIRD PROGRESS REPORT, OCTOBER TO DECEMBER, 1890.

THE work done during the quarter ended December 31, 1890, did not come up to expectation. After the fall of a few showers in October jungle exploration was reduced to a minimum, in the hope (which has proved fallacious) that the full burst of the north-east monsoon was imminent, and by softening the baked ground would enable excavations to be carried on with some success during a spell of wet weather. The abnormal drought—more severe even than in 1888-89—dissipated the reasonable anticipations of good progress in excavating, rendering this branch of the work, with the small labour force available, tediously slow and restricted.

EXPLORATION.

2. The entire patch of jungle within Area D, bordering the west branch of the Y road between the Lañkárāma and the “Tammattān-pokunū” (referred to in paragraph 7 of my last report), has now been cleared. This tract embraces the “Gal-gé” and three monasteries, which seem to have demarcated the extreme limit of the Jétawanārāma influence on the west—unless, indeed, they appertain to the smaller, though more contiguous, Lañkárāma. Further west is low-lying land formerly irrigable from Bulāṅkuḷam tank.

The ruins now opened out cover some ten or twelve acres. Their general ground plan can be followed with a degree of certainty not attainable in the case of ruins exposed for years to the mercy of the elements and man.* The possibility of arriving at a definite idea of the interior arrangement and correlation of the several buildings, if not their respective object, is of the utmost value in explaining and illustrating the ground plan of these early monastic premises. It is most desirable that a regular survey of this block connecting it with the ruins in Area Y should be undertaken soon. Meanwhile the accompanying preliminary plan, drawn by myself, may be accepted as sufficiently accurate for the purpose of the ensuing description.†

When Mr. Burrows wrote his report in 1885 all the jungle was standing, with the exception of a narrow strip along the path leading to the “Gal-gé”:

After leaving [the Outer Circular by the road passing between the “Tammattān pokunū,” and shortly before reaching [the “Elephants’ pokunū” on the left, the visitor will see on his right a fine stone gateway, on the fringe of the jungle; and about fifteen yards beyond this, on the same side, a little path leads to what is known as the “Gal-gé,” or stone house.....The jungle to the south and east of the “Gal-gé” is full of ruins and enclosures, possibly marking the site of the buildings which connected the Maha Vihāré, or sacred town, with the secular part of the city.‡

“Monastery C.”

3. South of the Outer Circular road, between the west pond of the two familiarly styled “Tammattān-pokunū,” within their own enclosing wall, which abuts on “Monastery A” from the north, are the remains of some seven rectangular buildings. North-west, a mere site (*a*¹); in the centre, a viharé, 16-pillared, facing east; (*a*) 25 ft. 8 in. by 21 ft. 10 in. with two chapels north-east, (*b*¹) site only, and south-east (*b*) 18 ft. 4 in. by 12 ft. of 12 pillars, which probably faced inwards south and north. In the south-west corner of the monastery enclosure was a building (*c*), 21 ft. 9 in. by 22 ft. 3 in., on 16 pillars, of which three still stand. All the pillars were originally 7 ft. high, but most are now stumps. These buildings lie *en echelon* to one another. Besides these were two small outhouses of 8 pillars (*c*¹), (*d*¹).

“Monastery A.”

4. “Monastery A” covers an area of some 8 chains square, or about 6½ acres of ground. The point of junction of the northern and eastern boundaries touches the Y road; along the west boundary is low land reaching to Bulāṅkuḷam tank; and down the irregular south side, besides similar land, is some rock and part of “Monastery B.”

The outer boundary wall was constructed of two or three courses of slabs laid in double line, back to back, and smoothed on the outside so as to give an even face, with probably an inside filling of brick and clay. The area within the four exterior walls was then divided by double or single stone walls into the lesser spaces required for each suite of buildings: occasionally there were further subdivisions. The north, west, and east boundaries run straight, except for an occasional short *wangiya*, or bend; but not the southern boundary, which had to follow the trend of the high ground.

* The closeness of forest trees which have grown up amidst these and similar ruins in the vicinity prevents any distinct conception being formed on the ground of their extent, grouping, &c. Actual counting gave an average of over fifty trees to 100 sq. ft. of superficial area.

† It should be noted that (except in the case of buildings *c, d, e, f, g*, in “Monastery B,” the basements of which were laid bare by Mr. Burrows’ excavation) the size of buildings or sites as shown in the plan represents merely the *present surface measurements*, which will in nearly every case prove to be *smaller* by some feet than the original dimensions.

‡ Burrows’ “Buried Cities,” p. 41.

The main entrance to Monastery A on the north face was not, as would appear at first sight, by the "gateway" referred to above, but through a small portico with plain guard-stones close outside the boundary wall to the left of the gateway, and hardly noticeable.

Approaching from the "*Tammattan-pokunu*," and passing in by the proper entrance, a street of 24 ft. wide, defined by stones on either side, leads south.

On the left, within its own single stone enclosure, stood (*d*) a large oblong building, 41 ft. 6 in. by 33 ft. 8 in., on 48 stone piers, arranged so as to allow of a wide passage through, across, and round the interior 24 pillars. It is into the "compound" attached to this building that the "stone gateway" (7 ft. 4 in. by 4 ft. 7 in.) mentioned by Mr. Burrows admits. At its west corner is a small outhouse (*e*) of 8 pillars (13 ft. 2 in. by 8 ft. 10 in.).

At this point on the opposite side of the main street a by-street, 10 ft. in width, turns west at right angles between stone walls, with coping vertical on the inner face, but ovolo outside. This widens out after twenty-four yards to 24 ft. and joins cross walls, which doubtless enclosed the buildings (*f*), (*g*), (*h*), and a *mura-gé*, or porch. Of the latter there is hardly a trace: it stood immediately in front of (*f*).

This (*f*) was a building of 24 pillars, 8 in. square by 7 ft. high, flattened at the top to take the roof beams. It now measures 35 ft. by 33 ft. 9 in., and is the second largest within the monastery walls. To its left front is a small outhouse (*g*) of similar dimensions to (*e*).

Partially behind (*f*) will be noticed a stone basement (*h*) finely moulded, 38 ft. 8 in. in length by 13 ft. 9 in. broad—a building unusually long in proportion to its breadth. It was awkwardly placed with regard to (*f*), in all probability to avoid the necessity of passing through the latter in order to reach it. The position of the stumps shows that its 12 pillars (5 ft. high by 8 in. square) stood well back from the platform, reducing the size of the shrine itself—if such it was—to 33 ft. 9 in. by 8 ft. 8 in.

The main street proceeding southwards passes, first, to the left or east of a stone foundation 23 ft. square (*i*), then skirts a building (*j*) 19 ft. 4 in. by 17 ft., on 16 pillars (now stumps), with a landing (10 ft. by 11 ft.), steps and guard-stones. These terminals have elephant off-sets and *doratupálas* shrouded by five-headed cobras.

The steps face eastwards and look on to a sprawling circular mound (*k*), 110 yards in present circumference with a slope of 32 ft. Two plain guard-stones or pillars facing each other on the top to the west are now held up in the roots of a spreading *ficus*, which completely encase them. The free outcrop of brick and the shape of the mound stamp it as even more artificial than the larger one in "Monastery B." Excavation alone can settle the doubt whether these were really *dágabas* or heaped up hillocks crowned by some building.

East of the mound, and adjoining the "*Gal-gé*," there is a building (*l*) 24 ft. 6 in. by 34 ft. 6 in. Of its 24 pillars, which are 7 ft. 3 in. in height and sharply squared to 10 in., all but one remain erect. Mr. Burrows, when examining the "*Gal-gé*," seems to have excavated its landing slab (7 ft. 8 in. by 7 ft.), steps and guard-stones, which are similar to (*j*), but with plain off-sets.

Beyond (*j*), as we advance southwards, but standing back near the west boundary, are the remnants of a building (*m*), which may have matched (*l*) in style and dimensions.

The street terminates at a literal "stone-fence"—for the stones are put in endwise—which ran on to the west boundary at a *wangiya*, and helped to form a quadrangular enclosure for a *coterie* of five buildings with a *mura-gé* (of which just a vestige remains above ground) at the entrance.

These five buildings are grouped in the customary manner—four smaller so-called "chapels" (*o*), (*p*), (*q*), (*r*), 17 to 18 ft. square and 12-pillared, ranged round a central *viháre* (*n*) of 24 columns, 35 ft. in length by 26 ft. broad, which faces north.*

Outside this inner enclosure, right and left, are four more annexes (*s*), (*t*), (*u*), (*v*) of the same dimensions as the "chapels," balancing one another and evidently connected with the central five.

Between the two (*s*), (*u*), on the right and the west outer boundary, was dug the large *pokuna*, which furnished the main water supply for the monastery. Originally oblong in shape, 43 yards in length by 25 yards broad, and banked up with cut stone on three sides (natural rock forms its west bank), its depth must have been considerable when filled to the level of the flight of steps down to the water which was on the east.

Near the *pokuna* there is an outhouse, 8 ft. 6 in. square, in the south-west boundary corner, and (*w*) a building, 21 ft. 6 in. square, projecting beyond the regular line of wall surrounding the Monastery. A *mutra-gala* lying near (*w*) explains itself.

Finally, south of (*q*), outside the boundary limit of "Monastery A," though hanging off it, within its own single wall, is a building (*x*) 25 ft. by 17 ft. with 24 slender (6 in.) pillar stumps.

5. Such is a bare record of the number and dimensions of the several ruins within Monasteries "C" and "A" as they now exist, three to four feet above their original and true ground level.

To the fact of its position at the furthest outskirts of the Jétawanárāma purview westwards is solely due the comparatively fair preservation of the boundaries and building of these monasteries from the reckless spoliation of more accessible "quarries."

Basements and steps lie buried awaiting excavation. If inscription slabs exist (and the experience of the "stone canopy" leaves little doubt on that score) they too must be sought for beneath the surface. Until some inscription is unearthed, and the monastery systematically excavated, it would be idle to speculate as to its actual age.

Unfortunately, from insufficiency of labour to detach for the purpose from work already in hand, the excavation of this desirable site, as of many others, will have to stand over *sine die*.

The "*Gal-gé*" Rock.

6. Stretching along the east face of "Monastery A" (perhaps defining its limit on this side) lies the bare whale-shaped outcrop of gneissoid rock usually styled the "*Gal-gé*" or "rock-house."

A few yards from its north extremity and some only twenty yards from the east boundary of "Monastery A" are the ruins of a fair-sized *viháre* (*a*) 35 ft. by 26 ft. Of its 24 smoothed pillars (8 ft. 3 in. in height by 10 in. square) eleven are still erect. The landing stone—a slab 12 ft. by 8 ft. 3 in.—has been robbed of its steps and one of the balustrades, and suffered further maltreatment

* Two heaps of pillar fragments deliberately wedged from their bases and ready for removal to serve as ashlar for culverts, lie, as found, near (*m*) and (*n*).

by the displacement of the left terminal and the moonstone. The guard-stones are janitors under seven-hooded cobras with off-sets shaped into engaged pilasters bearing up kneeling elephants.

The usual three squatting dwarfs carved on the stairway risers of this type of viharé appear on the landing slab, but cut to a smaller scale than ordinary—a diminution of design followed out in the moonstone. The platform of the viharé was of moulded brickwork faced with chunam, the vestibule alone being revetted with wrought stone. Let into the landing stone, in this as in other similar viharés, were two pillars (here 7 in. square) for the support of its roof. Between them and a low upper basement 3 ft. 4 in. by 10 in., carved with vases and flanking the doorway, were *sedilia* 5 ft. 6 in. by 1 ft. 7 in. The viharé looks east.

7. Immediately in front of it a low mound under trees close to the Y road attracted my attention. When cleared of jungle a small portion of plastered brickwork resembling the thigh of an elephant showed above ground. As the position of the mound and brick figure seemed to promise some clue to the surrounding ruins and the unexplainable connection of the “*Gal-gé*” with them, I decided to open the mound.

A week’s excavation, which demanded great caution owing to the fragility of the rotten brickwork, exposed the foundation of a perron of twelve projecting steps, and a brick façade doubly recessed. The design resembles to some extent the revetment of the piazza round Ruwanweli Dágaba. On either side of the steps above the moulded basement (2 ft. 1 in. height) rose a wall of some 4 ft. From this stood out the heads and forelegs of eight elephants—thus confirming the original surmise—one at each angle and four fronting.

The heads of the animals had utterly collapsed, and only the greatest care in picking out the *débris* prevented the fallen earth and brick from bringing away the rest of their bodies. Like the far larger Ruwanweli elephants, these were fashioned of suitable bricks,* but more diminutive, shaped and rounded with a thick coating of plaster, on which were worked the trappings. The elephants project from the wall about 2 ft. with their feet resting on the basement coping. Above them there was probably an upper and substantial coping ledge.

The excavation of the mound enabled a clear idea to be formed of the plan here followed in connecting the “*Gal-gé*” rock and adjacent sloping ground with the “Elephant pokuna” situated less than 50 yards distant across the road eastwards.

In order to rise to the level of the rock the ground was levelled about 20 yards outward; then banked up at the sides and a long part of the front with rubble, until united to the wing basement walls of the brick building. This had other two walls (1 ft. 4 in. thick) running out parallel with the stairs at 7 ft. distance with probably an inward return.

Above the stone steps (three only remain) had been built a brick *mandapa*, or portico (*b*), 11 ft. 6 in. by 10 ft., with tiled roof. The doorframes at its entrance and exit were of stone. Shapely fragments of moulded plinth and capital, dug out at the sides of the steps, leave no doubt that at least the east façade was ornamented with false pillars of brick, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick, octagonal and square, standing three parts free of the wall and adapted to its indentations. A couple of steps with simple balustrades led out of the portico to the viharé (*a*) described above.

In the accompanying drawing the front elevation of the *mandapa* has been restored with some approximation to the original design.

8. Hitherto the only path through the jungle to the “*Gal-gé*” left the Y road between this mound and viharé (*a*).

Passing through a collection of stone pillars, and a fine ruined stairway,† the path leads at once to a long rounded hummock of natural rock, which must have been extensively quarried in former times, as it is covered with marks of the wedges used to break off the slabs of stone. Underneath the east [*sic*] side of the rock three small chambers have been excavated and partially walled in with brick; these were probably the cells of ascetics. Nearly opposite is a plain *patula* stone, a platform with twenty-four pillars, and a well-preserved stairway.‡

Besides wedge marks the rock is lined by prolonged grooves, 4 to 5 in. wide, extending along either side, and in places zig-zagging upwards from one to another. Their object is often hastily assumed to have been as a setting for brick walls. But for this purpose they are manifestly unsuitable, being too narrow for the secure reception of foundation. Rather, they may have served as means of mounting the rock, being very gradual in ascent, affording sufficient hold for a bare foot, and obviating the necessity of cutting regular steps at frequent intervals. There are in addition at the south end a rock stairway and other steps here and there roughly hewn.

The rock extends approximately north and south 120 yards and on the east shelves down to a lower tier 40 ft. broad. Nowhere is it more than 25 ft. high. Some socket holes on the summit near the edge at the north extremity seem intended for the wooden posts of an erection over a smoothed stone bed.

In the west face, about one-third of the distance from its northern limit, is cut the “*Gal-gé*” proper. This “rock-house” or cave was prepared for its hermit priests with considerable care. First, a slice, 34 ft. in width by 13 ft. 6 in. deep, was wedged from the rock; then a further depth of 10 ft. smoothly scooped out in ovolo shape, the bellying roof being beautifully rounded. Finally, a substantial wall, 2 ft. thick, of brick and puddle was probably run up to form the front and divide the interior space into three chambers.§ The centre cell, entered by a chastely moulded stone door (6 ft. 6 in. by 3 ft. 5 in.), is 16 ft. 7 in. in length and 8 ft. 6 in. in depth, with a maximum height of 8 ft. 9 in. At the left back corner a stone shelf was cut; on the right of the doorway is a bed, and at the back a long seat, both fashioned of clay. This cell has two small windows, now blocked. The two side cells are very cramped, being but 5 ft. 6 in. by 5 ft. 3 in. and 6 ft. 1 in. in height and entered by low arches. A *katáré* was cut above the cells to divert the drip. In front of them there is a rock cistern, 20 ft. by 8 ft. 6 in., hollowed from the slab rock.

There was doubtless access from the “*Gal-gé*” to “Monastery A” by gateways, as its east boundary is here undefined. The “*Gal-gé*” is sometimes termed “*Tanguttara Pirivena*,” but on what grounds is not apparent.

* Some are as small as 4 in. by 1 in. by $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.

† Opposite to this stairway there is a half-finished moonstone, the semi-circular lines and a few devices only being completed and others merely sketched. The workmen were possibly disturbed at their work by the invaders, and never returned to it.

‡ Burrows, *l. c.*, p. 41.

§ The present wall is modern.

“Monastery B.”

9. At its south extremity the “*Gal-gé*” rock adjoins a third monastery, probably distinct from “Monastery A.” So much of the ground as covered the centre viharé and its annexes, as well as the hill behind, was opened out in 1884–85 by Mr. Burrows. But to arrive at the true external boundaries a good deal of the jungle on the west and south had to be cut back by my coolies.

The premises are not so extensive as those of “Monastery A.” In former times there was an approach from the Lañkárāma, which lies about a hundred yards south-east, by a stone bridge (of which a few of the uprights are standing) thrown across a deep irrigation channel, 40 ft. in width. This *ēla*, which seems to have started from Bulāṅkuḷam tank, after passing on the south an immense shallow *pokuna*, skirts the south-east boundary of the monastery. Crossing the road in a north-easterly direction, it then runs south of the ruins in Y; whence, doubling back and traversing the road between the Lañkárāma and the fork of the Y road, it finally loses itself in the Basavakkulam fields.

Entering the premises from the Y road, where the culvert spans the *ēla*, an unimportant building (*a*) of 12 piers is first met on the bank of the channel. This fronts the main viharé. There are signs of other buildings having existed between.

To the left, in the north-east corner, is a square *pokuna* with a small 12-pillared building (*b*), 17 ft. 6 in. square, on its edge.

About the centre of the premises is placed the viharé (*c*) with its four satellites (*d*), (*e*), (*f*), (*g*) lying off the angles. Mr. Burrows had the basements of all five buildings freed of soil, and carried out some other slight excavation on the hilly ground to the west.

About a hundred yards to the west of the Lañkárāma Dágaba I discovered a large viharé, which is no doubt connected with the contiguous “*Gal-gé*,” or hermit’s cave, known as the “Sangutta Piralena.” The stone ogee moulding and slabs which form its boundary wall and external platform are of very bold and massive workmanship; and the doorjambs of the entrance are represented by two huge stone slabs, measuring 10 ft. 7 in. high by 3 ft. 6 in. wide and 4½ in. thick, which are still upright and in position. The steps and moonstone have unfortunately been removed, and I fear the neighbouring culvert on the “Outer Circular road” explains their disappearance. The viharé has four attached chapels at the four corners, and there is a very large and beautiful *pokuna* to the south.*

Its base is square, with a broad “gangway” of smooth granite slabs running along its four sides. The moulding and finish of the outer walls is admirable; and the doorway is unique, being formed of two upright slabs of granite, about 8 ft. high by 3½ ft. wide and 5 in. thick, with a false pillar represented on each. There are four annexes at the four corners with decorated stairways and “door guardians,” a vast *pokuna* to the south, and a large dágaba (or natural hill transformed into a dágaba) on the west.†

I append drawings of the ground plan, elevation, and basement moulding of this striking viharé. The plan is almost identical with that of the so-called “King’s (Maha Sen’s) Palace.” The steps led on to a broad landing, 9 ft. 5 in. by 12 ft. 10 in., in which are inserted two columns necessary to support the roof. The *sedilia* bear on their inner faces carved figures of lions regardant with front paw raised and on their top lotus bosses. These semi-convex slabs impinge on the two massive stone door wings, monoliths 8 in. thick and measuring 7 ft. 10 in. in height by 3 ft. 1 in. in breadth, inclusive of the 9 in. false pillars. The door space between the slabs is 5 ft. 10 in. Between the landing stage and the door sill is an intermediate slab 7 ft. by 1 ft. 5 in. hollowed to a depth of 3 in.‡ Beyond the sill again is a third flag stone, 8 ft. 1 in. by 4 ft. 3 in., with moulded sockets to take the door tenons.

The spreading coping (3 ft. 8 in. broad by 5½ in. thick) of the “gangway” measures 57 ft. by 40 ft. 6 in. Some of the immense slabs which form the paving are over 19 ft. in length, and must have taxed the skill of even such adepts in stone building to adjust without flaw. The stylobate basement is 3 ft. 10 in. in height and moulded similarly to that of the smaller shrine (*h*) in “Monastery A.”

The features of its elevation are a plain low plinth, *cyma reversa*, or ogee, a bold round or “bull’s nose” slightly flattened and stepped, with above a deep block, *cyma recta*, and a rectangular coping—6 courses in all.

Upon this platform rises a second smaller basement of similar moulding but without coping, 11½ in. in height, with a shallow buttress 2 ft. 9 in. by 4½ in. on either side of the vestibule. The inner part of its top surface is slightly incised and roughed to receive the wall of substantial bricks (each 2 ft. by 1 ft. 2 in. by 9 ft.) which enclosed the viharé itself. This wall, of which portions on the right remain, rising a few inches above the stone base and marking clearly the line it followed, was 3 ft. thick, and inside had a low stone base 1 ft. 4 in. in breadth by 8 in. deep.

The interior space of the building was thus reduced to 45 ft. by 28 ft. 3 in. The viharé was supported on 24 columns (half the number remain), 9 ft. in height; the outer four 1 ft. 2 in. square, the rest 11 in., smoothly dressed and flat-topped for the stout roof beams to rest firm.

The annexed drawing well explains the plan upon which these viharés and similar buildings were erected. None of the stone pillars except the two in the porch stood exposed to view outside the brickwork—the exterior face of the 16 outermost pillars running flush with the inside of the wall.

This applies equally to the “chapels” so styled. The four here and elsewhere were all built alike of brick concealing stone pillars.

The platforms of those now under consideration, 29 ft. square, are mounted by steps 5 ft. wide, with balustrades, guard-stones, and landing flags in proportion. The actual buildings on 16 pillars 6 ft. 6 in. in height (those at the angles 10 in. square, the rest 8 in.), average in measurement 21 ft. 6 in. Two smaller pillars, 6 in. square, on either side of the steps held up the porch roofs. At the angles of the basement outside are four additional pillars, which helped to carry the overhanging roofs of the building, or act as fenders.

This cluster of shrines may be taken as fairly representative of the class of fanes most favoured in the sacred architecture of Anurádhapura.

* Sessional Paper X., 1886, p. 2.

† Burrows’ “Buried Cities,” p. 77.

‡ Such ante-sills are not infrequent. Their true object is open to conjecture. They may have held water for washing the feet before entering the building.

10. At the back of the viharé is a banked terrace, in width 34 ft., reached by steps. A boundary wall ran north to unite with the "*Gal-gé*" and south for 30 yards along a low rocky continuation of the gneiss strata,* turning east sharply till it meets the *ela*.

From the terrace a stone gateway admitted to the vast mound or small hill, to which Mr. Burrows refers in his report :—

I also excavated the large natural rock which rises to the west of it, as I was led to infer from certain marks at its base that it had been used for religious purposes. About half-way up it, under 8 ft. of earth, and on an artificially levelled platform, I came across a "meditation bed," or hollow cut to the shape of the human body. To the left of it, and within reach of the left hand of the devotee, is a "stone rosary"—that is to say, a series of sixteen lines cut in the rock. The devotee felt those with his fingers, and repeated the sacred stanza for each line.†

It was here Mr. Burrows found the coin of the Emperor Theodosius :—

The discovery of such a coin in such a place is perhaps as interesting an archæological fact as one would wish for. Traces of Greek art and influence on Oriental ideas, through the medium of the Bactrian kingdom, are not uncommon, at least in India. But visible proofs of intercourse with Roman Empire are infinitely more rare. Possibly some explanation of the presence of this coin may be found in the pages of Cosmos Indicopleustes, who gives an account of a visit paid to Ceylon by a Greek merchant (and Roman citizen) named Sopater, about one hundred years after this coin was struck. Sopater had an audience of the king (probably Kumara Das who reigned at Anurádhapura), and by way of proving to him the power and grandeur of Rome exhibited some of the highly finished coinage of the Roman Empire.‡

11. Behind this hill is a third elongated hump of bare rock lined and stepped after the fashion of the "*Gal-gé*."

Area II.

12. During half of October both the Sinhalese and Tamil gangs were working in the area marked II which lies immediately north of the Jétawanaráma and between the paths to Paṅkuliya and Galkaḍawala villages. It is about quarter of a mile deep by one mile wide.

Through the centre of this tract a path cut by Mr. Burrows (now re-opened) strikes northward for two miles to the "*Vijayaráma*" and "*Kiribat Vehera*."

Area II (taking the Outer Circular as its south base) abounds in ruins studded as thickly as those in V. As was to be expected, in size and frequency they diminish in proportion to their distance from the Jétawanaráma, to which establishment they probably appertained. Of these ruins, all save those in the strip cleared along the Outer Circular are still hidden and only connected with one another by the narrow by-paths cut by my coolies.

No description would be intelligible without a survey plan showing their actual relative position. For the present it must suffice to class the ruins here still uncleared, generally, as plain rectangular buildings with a large percentage of their pillars curtailed to mere stumps.

13. Between the path to the "*Vijayaráma*" and that to Paṅkuliya within Area II is at least a second extensive monastery enclosed within a substantial boundary wall, besides the one touching the Outer Circular road near the Jétawanaráma, cleared by Mr. Burrows in 1884–85.§ Adjoining it is a large *pokuna* faced with dressed stones. In the case of this monastery at least the whole of the premises will be cleared back to the boundaries when more coolies are available for such work. The *pokuna* was discovered by Mr. Burrows, though his clearing did not extend north of the Outer Circular at this point (4th mile). Its position is about a quarter of a mile north-east of the large well-known figure of the sedent Buddha, with the newly-discovered monastery just alluded to to its east. Mr. Burrows writes :—

Opposite to this statue a path has been cut northwards into the jungle, which leads to a magnificent *pokuna*, or bathing pond. It is similar in detail to the *Kuttam-pokuna*, but is square instead of oblong; and the long flight of steps, instead of standing out from, is let into, the side wall. The stone pipe which fed it rests on an upright slab, on which is carved a grotesque Falstaffian figure in high relief, and probably was connected by a channel with Basawakkulam tank.¶

A few yards to the west of this *pokuna*, Mr. Wrightson, of the Public Works Department, and I, having lost our way in the jungle, stumbled across a large inscribed slab in very fair preservation. The inscription appears to be in Tamil, but it contains a large number of letters which are unknown to modern Tamil, nor can any of the local Tamils understand a word of it. It may possibly be Kanarese, but a careful "squeeze" has been taken of it for transmission to India, so the point will soon be settled. So far as I am aware, it is the only Tamil (or *quasi* Tamil) inscription yet found in or near Anurádhapura. It has been removed to the Kachcheri compound for safe-keeping; but a good path has been cut to the place where it was found, in case its contents render excavation in the neighbourhood advisable.**

14. On the left of the path to the "*Vijayaráma*," and within fifty yards of the Galkaḍawala village path, stretches an extension of the rock back-bone which southwards runs through the "*Gal-gé*" with its connected patches to a point nearly west of the Lapkáráma, and may be followed on through Basawakkulam tank, to the rocky east fringe of Tisa-veva, Isaramuniya temple, and the Vesagiri caves. Here are situated the cave dwellings alluded to by Mr. Burrows :—

The visitor will see a continuation of this road [V road, west branch] running northwards into the jungle; and proceeding some fifty yards along it, will notice on his right a jungle-path, which will conduct him to two sets of cave dwellings. The brickwork which enclosed them is gone, but the dimensions of each cell can easily be made out. An enormous flat slab, 15 ft. in length, lies at right angles to the first cell, with a long and very ancient inscription on it that has yet to be deciphered.†† On the summit of the rock at the second set of cells there are four low altars for the reception of flower offerings plainly marking the site of some important image or relic.‡‡

EXCAVATION.

15. With the exception of occasional showers, usually light, the north-east monsoon, as far as regards Anurádhapura itself, totally failed. As a consequence, even the small amount of earthwork

* Upon the rock are scored several figures, letters, and diagrams, many hopelessly worn. The most noticeable are the figure of a warrior "striking an attitude," a kneeling woman, the *svastika* symbol, two "diagrams" (for games?), and the letters (in rock character) *ya, va, sa, na, na*. See drawing.

† Sessional Paper X., p. 2, paragraph 7.

‡ Sessional Paper X., p. 6, paragraph 20.

§ Sessional paper X., p. 5, paragraph 15. "A very interesting collection of ecclesiastical buildings for which I am unable to find a fitting name."

¶ Burrows' "Buried Cities," p. 77.

** Sessional Paper X., p. 3, paragraph 9.

†† A mistake. See Muller's "Ceylon Inscriptions," pp. 27, 73, 109.

‡‡ Burrows' "Buried Cities," p. 75.

practicable with my limited gang of coolies has been still further minimized. It has been found possible to excavate, and that but partially, only one extensive site.

The site selected as the most suitable from its proximity to the town, and as promising the best results, was that embraced by the "Buddhist Railing" discovered in September. The work has presented great difficulties, and dragged a slow length along unavoidable under all the untoward circumstances combined.*

Preliminary operations commenced by the felling and removal of some fifty large *vira* trees, which alone occupied ten days.

Starting from the south-east corner, where a foot or two of the ovolo basement of the railing showed above ground, a trench 8 ft. wide was first dug along the exterior line of the east and south faces to a depth of 3 to 4 ft.

Near the corner of the east front a length of 20 ft. of the socle, basement, and sub-plinths were unearthed *in situ*, in no way displaced, though canted back slightly. Along the rest of this face the line of stone was found to have been removed except at the north-east corner; the south face had hardly more stone in position; and on carrying the excavation across the Outer Circular road round the north and west faces, the same disappearance, except at the corners, of all but short lengths of the two lower numbers of the railing was confirmed.

The general slope of the basement indicated that most of the railing had fallen inwards. This proved to be the case. Nearly all the pieces of the rail have been unearthed inside the basement, some at a depth of 8 ft. below the present surface. Sufficient has been recovered to restore some 10 or 12 yards of the railing perfectly.†

The indescribable confusion in which the fragments were found heaped one upon another, and the almost entire wreck of the railing, leave little room for doubt that this unique relic of Ceylon Buddhist architecture must have perished under the ruthless destruction of those invaders from South India, at whose door lies the mutilation and ruin of the best works of the sculptor's art in Anurádhapura.

The excavation, so tantalizing from its slowness, has been so far successful that the following data may even now be postulated:—

(i.) The railing was rectangular, 140 ft. on its north and south sides and 110 ft. east and west.

(ii.) It consisted of six members together rising to a height of 7 ft. 6 in. above ground, with a backing of brickwork up to the bottom level of the upper plinth.

(iii.) It was quite unornamented except at the four entrances.

(iv.) The entrances partook of much of the plainness of the rails. In lieu of the lofty *toran* (arches) of India with their richly carved cross rails, at the gateways stood guard-stones facing one another and morticed to the rail at the back.

These terminals rise only 18 in. above the coping. In width 1 ft. 1½ in. by 5 in. thick, their top is rounded off at a height of 5 ft. Their design displays a chaste simplicity unaffected by the elaboration of a later age. The surface ornament is a tall lotus plant planted in a bowl-shaped vase (differing in each pair) with single elongated stalk throwing off leaves on either side and issuing in a full-blown flower or bud. The lines are as sharp as though just cut, though two milleniums have possibly passed since they yielded to the graver's chisel.

Two of these terminal stones have been dug out, quite unbroken, one on the east, the other on the south, besides fragments of the two on the west face and a piece of one on the north.

(v.) The railing was surrounded by a triple colonnade, 10 ft. in width, of slight squared pillars.

(vi.) Within the railing at a distance of 20 ft. was an inner enclosure, inside of which stood more rows of columns; these tall and octagonal.

(vii.) Portions of a second moulded stone basement, found with a coping slightly incised on the top to carry brickwork, belong either to this inner enclosure or to set-off vestibules.

What description of building, if any, occupied the centre, it is premature to hazard even a guess.

The inner side of the railing on the west and south faces and the whole of the space within the building remains to be excavated. With my present force of coolies it will not be possible to finish this, even should heavy rain fall, under three months; and if the drought continues, more than double the period may be required.

16. The cost of excavation at such expenditure of time in proportion to results can hardly be defended. If the "buried city" of Anurádhapura is to be *searchingly and systematically excavated within a reasonable period of time*, in the face of the many adverse concomitant conditions existing, a force ten times larger than that now employed would not be too large to cope with the countless ruined sites—the square miles, indeed, of ruins—imbedded in solid sun-baked *débris* of brick and tile held close by snaky roots. The greater portion of the ruins above ground has, it is true, been cleared of jungle, but it were mere "summer madness" to rest on the hope of ever identifying them from such surface measurements and the necessarily limited, almost stereotyped, descriptions alone possible at present. The ruins—at least a very large proportion of them—must be divested, speaking roughly, but within the mark, of *from 4 to 5 ft.* of soil before any comprehensive grasp can be attained of their general plan, interconnection, and relative importance, and our imperfect knowledge advanced beyond the present stage of groping conjecture.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY.

17. Mr. Snowden of the Survey Department left Anurádhapura in June last after surveying a portion of the ruins in Area Y. His work has since been plotted, but is too confined and partial to justify a fair attempt to work out the arrangement of the few ruins laid down on his plan as part of the whole tract circumscribing the Jétawanaráma. This must be deferred until the entire sweep

* So tediously protracted had progress in excavation become that it was considered necessary to lay the true state of things plainly before Government, and seriously to recommend the entire abandonment of excavation unless it could be carried on under considerably improved conditions. See annexure A, letter to Government, No. 125 of November 15 (17), 1890.

† This desirable work has been suggested to the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society, Ceylon Branch, as an outlet of expenditure from the dormant "Excavation Fund" raised in 1884.

of ruins lying between "Monastery A," near the "*Tammattan pokunu*," on the west, and the monastery south of the sedent Buddha near the "*Kuttam pokunu*," to the east, can be at least connected by a rough survey. All accounts of individual buildings, however full, must necessarily be more or less tentative, being but isolated and minute portions of a complex whole awaiting unravelment.

Messrs. Ridout and Young arrived in November after my reiterated representation to Government that the archæological work was being rendered nugatory by the continued delay.* Unfortunately it is doubtful whether other urgent work required by the Survey Office will leave them free to devote uninterrupted attention to the survey of the ruins.

This delay is greatly to be regretted. It were almost better to abandon the archæological survey entirely than dally with it. Each year will render the task more difficult and unsatisfactory. It cannot be too strongly asseverated that both archæological and topographical survey should be carried on *pari passu* and in no half-hearted spirit, if any substantial result is to be attained.

18. The topographic survey of the ruins has, *me judice*, hitherto partaken of an unmethodical character which is fatal to success. It should, as I take it, be conducted upon essentially different lines—

(i.) Ruins close to the town of which least traces remain (such as the Abhayagiriya *entourage*) should be dealt with first, being more liable to "disappear."

(ii.) Work should proceed *from the whole to parts*—i.e., outer boundaries should be first fixed, next the inner cross boundaries, finally the buildings. Ancient water-courses, roads, &c., traversing the ruins should be laid down with as much care as the ruins themselves. Hitherto the ruins have been surveyed with more regard to modern landmarks than their real boundaries.

(iii.) Two surveyors should, if possible, be *exclusively* detached for archæological work and *allowed to continue it unsuperseded* so long as their health lasts. Nothing is more conducive to indifference, delay, and error than a series of surveyors required to take up half-finished work of this technical nature.

(iv.) One surveyor should be placed (subject to the general control of the Surveyor-General) under the direct orders of the officer entrusted with the Archæological Survey, in order to carry out any urgent work which cannot well await the regular detailed survey.

KADAWAT KÓRALÉ.

19. At the close of November I spent a few days in a portion of the Kadawat Kóralé with the object of revising the reading of several inscriptions partially copied by Dr. Goldschmidt and Dr. Müller in 1875, and examining others since discovered. The following places were visited:—

(i.) **Sangili Kanadarawa.**—Here is a large tank breached and under forest. A fine ancient *gal-penuma* (stone-spill), 276 ft. in length by 31 broad, built of five slab courses 8 ft. in height, some stones averaging 5 ft. 6 in. by 1 ft. 9 in. by 6 in. with short piers at intervals of 12 ft., is still in good order.

About 300 yards below the spill is an equally striking ancient stone bridge of the usual type, recently discovered by Mr. E. R. McDonnell, Superintendent of Tanks. It comprises ten spans (not including the abutments), varying from 11 ft. 6 in. to 6 ft. 9 in. across. The cross beams, 11 ft. 3 in. by 1 ft. 6 in. by 11 in., rested on three uprights (the outer two tennoned), 6 ft. 5 in. above the ground at the centre of the waterway, falling on either side to one foot. The gradual rise of the roadway, formed of six or seven slabs, averaging 1 ft. 4 in. in breadth by 8 in. thick, is well marked. Only the end spans and one other remain perfect; in the case of the rest uprights alone remain. The greatest height to the roadway is at the 5th span, and is 8 ft. above the present ground level.†

About a quarter of a mile north-west is an open space, 100 ft. by 75 ft., rock, covered thinly with earth and patches of grass. The site is known traditionally as *Máligá-tenna*, and there are traces of at least five ruined buildings. The largest, 26 ft. square of 16 stout piers with a brick outhouse, a second building of 16 pillars enclosed by single course of stone slabs, another small brick building and the quadrangle 56 ft. square of the *dágaba*. The surrounding jungle is said to contain numberless pillar stumps. The ruins do not seem to possess any historical tradition, but a Tamil inscription found on the tank bund may throw some light on its past.

The village can hardly have derived its name from the brave but infamous Sangili Rája of Jaffna, the scourge of the Jesuit converts in the sixteenth century.

(ii.) **Etaviragollewa.**—The square pillar bearing on its four faces an inscription of the tenth century (assigned to Mahindu III.) has been considerably ill-used by the villagers since it was examined by Dr. Goldschmidt. It now lies on the side of the *pin-pára* from Maha Divulveva to Etákada, and should be brought into Anurádhapura.

(iii.) **Etakada.**—There are two inscriptions at this place. The Singhalese pillar inscription in thick jungle is practically illegible as it stands. The thick undergrowth and trees cast so heavy a shade, that attempt to revise the text was hopeless. The Kórala promised to have the jungle cleared round the pillar before I revisit Etákada.

Within the temple premises is a small slab (1 ft. 6 in.) engraved on all four sides with eighteen lines of an old Tamil inscription of about the tenth century. This was copied. The old *viharé* (20 ft. by 12 ft. square) has been recently restored, not injudiciously, the pose of the images being far less forced than usual and the painting more subdued. It contains three seated and three erect images of Buddha, besides figures of Maitri Diviya Rája and Vishnu and Saman Deviyó.

(iv.) **Kidagalegama.**—An old temple of some importance must have existed at this village. The present *viharé* premises cover a space 69 ft. by 77 ft., and are surrounded by a single line of slabs 10 ft. 9 in. by 1 ft. 5 in. by 1 ft. 8 in., cut to quarter round on their inner face similar to the ruined building near the modern market in Anurádhapura. The *viharé* was built on a platform of earth 32 ft. by 24 ft. cased in a stone revetment 3 ft. 4 in. high, and moulded in a repeated design. It probably stood as at present on sixteen piers, above a flight of twelve steps with plain guard-stones, moonstones, and helix-finished balustrades. The cunningly devised variety of the old wooden drooping crockets of wood (*gonēs*) beneath the floor beams is very noticeable and worthy of reproduction.

* Letter No. 93 of October 8, 1890, to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

† A photograph was taken after clearing the jungle growth hiding the bridge.

Nagirikanda.—On the smaller of the two hills is a cave temple of the type common in the Kandyan districts—a natural cavern artificially transformed into a shrine by clay built walls. The interior measurement is 17 ft. 6 in. by 12 ft. 6 in. broad, with a maximum height of 8 ft. 8 in. A recumbent Buddha, 12 cubits in length, with other four Buddhas sedent and three erect, are the only images.

Dr. Müller has given versions of the texts of both the rock inscriptions on the hill overlooking the cave temple. In both inscriptions occurs its ancient name *Bamanogiriya*.*

Galgirikanda.—There is an inscription cut in very bold letters on the almost horizontal surface of the *galpota*. Dr. Müller writes of it :—

(It) bears the name of king Batiya, but without any genealogy, so that we cannot ascertain which king of this name is meant. The characters, however, are those of the second century, and we cannot go far wrong in ascribing it to king Bhátika Tissa II. The subject of this inscription is a grant of paddy fields which cannot be identified.

Since it was visited by Dr. Müller nearly half of the inscription, at its centre, has been destroyed by fire in a senseless attempt to discover hidden treasure. Rock-cut steps and two short cave inscriptions further attest the antiquity of the site.

INSCRIPTIONS.

20. A separate report on all the inscriptions recently found, or previously discovered and unread, is held over until I have the necessary clerical assistance in transcribing the texts from my copies and in revising the translations. These old Sinhalese inscriptions even when read (and I am not aware of a single native at present able to read the variant form of character in vogue at different periods) greatly tax the erudition of the best scholars of the Island to arrive at a thoroughly satisfactory rendering.

Several new pillar and slab inscriptions, mostly mutilated or greatly weather-worn, have been discovered since the date of my First Report. The following is a bare list :—

(i.) Pillar slab, found behind the so-called “Elephant stables,” 6 ft. by 1 ft. 1 in. by 7½ in.; much worn. Age, prior to fourth century A.D. Engraved on three sides : A 6 lines ; B 0 ; C 2 ; D 2.

(ii.) Pillar slab, found to east of the monastery directly north of the Jétawanaráma, 6 ft. 5 in. by 1 ft. by 6 in. Age, prior to fourth century A.D.; partially defaced; letters on three sides : A 3 lines ; B 2 ; C 1 ; D 0.

(iii.) Pillar, broken (now mended), found near the “Kiribat Vehera,” 6 ft. by 10½ in. square. Age, early part tenth century ; king, *Siri Saṅga Bó*, identified by Dr. Goldschmidt with Kásyapa V. (914–31 or 937–54). Engraved on all four sides : A 19 ; B 21 ; C 20 ; D 17 lines ; legible throughout.

(iv.) Fragment of pillar, from some village near Madawachchi, 3 ft. 2 in. by 8½ in. square; name of king not on this piece. Age, same as (iii.).

(v.) Fragment of pillar, also from the neighbourhood of Madawachchi, 4 ft. 3 in. by 7½ in. square ; much worn. Age, late tenth century. Name of king not given ; but almost certainly a grant of Mahindu III. ; legible where not chipped.

(vi.) Pillar (broken into four pieces, three recovered) found a mile out of Anurádhapura near the Kurunegala road ; incomplete, 4 ft. by 8½ in. Age, eleventh century ; king's name not on the portions left. Letters worn, but fairly legible. Inscribed on three sides : A 19 lines ; B 16 ; C 0 ; D 7 ; with symbol, dog and crow.

(vii.) Pillar found near the misnamed “Queen's Palace.” Age, eleventh or twelfth century ; engraved on two sides : A about 15 lines ; B 0 ; C 0 ; D about 10 ; name of king and whole of upper part of A, D, quite illegible.

(viii.) Slab found north of Area G between path to Paṅkuliya and the Malwatu-oya, 3 ft. 8 in. by 1 ft. 8½ in. by 9 in. Inscribed on face only, with eleven lines, the three upper virtually illegible. Age, thirteenth century, and king (probably) Parákrama Báhu I.

(ix.) Pillar slab from Sáṅgili Kanadaráwa tank bund, 3 ft. 10 in. by 1 ft. 3 in. by 6 in. A Tamil inscription. Age doubtful ; letters very much weathered.

STAFF.

21. Since July last I have been without a regular clerk and interpreter. The Government Agent has generously endeavoured to help me to some extent by sparing a Kachchéri clerk to work out of office hours. But the loan was understood to be temporary, and could not prevent the inconvenience and difficulty attending such a make-shift arrangement.

My work in connection with inscriptions has especially suffered. Representations to Government, coupled with an application† for the services of Mr. D. M. de Zilva Wikramasinghe, Assistant Librarian of the Colombo Museum, resulted in that officer being seconded to work under me for a year. The preparation of the Museum Library Catalogue seems, however, likely to detain Mr. Wikramasinghe in Colombo into 1891.

The labour force employed, Sinhalese and Tamil, has been increased from twenty to thirty since October 27.

March, 1891.

H. C. P. BELL.

* Müller, *loc. cit.* pp. 51, 77, 111.

† Letter No. 109 of October 24, 1890, to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

ANNEXURE.

A.

The ARCHÆOLOGICAL COMMISSIONER to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY, Colombo.

No. 125.

Anurádhapura, November 15 (17), 1890.

SIR,—IN connection with my letter No. 90 of the 4th ultimo and your reply of the 15th idem, notifying that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to authorize me to employ thirty free labourers for the present quarter, I have the honour to lay the following facts before you for his Excellency's consideration.

Of the thirty coolies employed I have continued to keep ten (Sinhalese) under their Vel-Vidáné at work in exploring northwards and clearing jungle round any ruins discovered. Though the weather has been showery, rain has not yet fallen so heavily, or with such persistence, as to seriously inconvenience jungle exploration. The rest (Tamils) have been for the last month exclusively engaged in excavating the site near the Abhayagiri (actual measurement 140 ft. by 110 ft.), where the "Buddhist Railing" was discovered in September.

Before commencing to dig it was necessary to fell and remove about fifty large and tough véra trees. This work alone occupied some ten days. Since then excavation has been carried round the exterior of the railing to an average width of 10 ft. and depth of 3 ft. to 4 ft. in order to lay bare the basement and recover the scattered members of the railing plinths, posts, rails, and coping. Owing to the hardness of the soil (much of it fallen brickwork), necessity of carrying to some distance the earth dug out, the ramifications of countless roots, and the care required in getting out the stones and slabs intact, progress has been tediously slow.

A fair estimate of excavation in hard soil free from the obstacles above cited may be put at three-fourths of a cube a man per diem. I calculate that my men can barely do half a cube each a day on the average. At this rate the twenty men will only be able to excavate in the course of a month 260 cubes, allowing 26 working days. It will therefore take them more than two months to finish this one site; for $150 \times 120 \times 3 = 54,000$ cubic ft. = 540 cubes. The men are working well, are regularly supervised by me, and the maximum amount of work being got out of them.

I am anxious to start excavation at a dozen other sites almost equally promising, but am met by the insuperable difficulty of want of labour.

I deem it my duty to point out that in my opinion it is useless proceeding with excavation under the present conditions. The tangible result can never commensurate with the time and money spent; and I do not hesitate to say confidently that unless excavation on a much extended scale can be undertaken, it will be better to drop this portion of the archæological survey altogether. That it should be held necessary to recommend the abandonment of this, the most important part of my work, will, I think, prove the gravity of the situation.

The only alternative I can venture to suggest is that, as in Mr. Burrows' time, a large force of prisoners (200 would not be too many) should be put at my disposal and under my orders for the express purpose of carrying on excavations for a year. It would naturally be undesirable to employ prisoners in exploring jungle—thus rendering escape easy—and a small gang of hired labourers (say twenty Sinhalese, who are best adapted to this work) would therefore still be required. The completion of the Abhayagiri Dágaba and the possible suspension of work on the Mirisawetīya leads me to hope that some such arrangement may be sanctioned.

It is far from my desire, in submitting the above statement and suggestion, to hamper the Government in any way, but I feel it incumbent upon me to lay the facts plainly before you in the interest of Government, of the present archæological survey, and, I may perhaps be allowed to add, in justice to myself, in view of the responsibility and difficulty attaching to the work.

I am, &c.,

H. C. P. BELL.

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